UNDER-GARMENTS, GLOVES, HOSIERY, OENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS.

An extensive and superior variety of the above Goods, at the lowest prices for which they can be purchased in this country, will be found at the well-known Importing and Manufacturing Betabilishment of

Union Adams, No. 591 Broadway, (Opposite the Metropolitan Hotel.) New York.

GREAT BARGAINS-CARPETS AT COST-PUR CHASED A REDUCED PRICES -PETERSON & HUMPHREY Will now sell of their stock of CARPETS, &c., at the lowest 

No. 379 BROADWAY, corner of White-st. HOLIDAY PRESENTS.

Elegantly bound Music, in every variety and of the latest

Wat Hatt & Son.
No 239 Broadway opposite the Park.

RICH TOILET GOODS, -Fine Perfumery, Soaps, Labin's Extracts, Dressing Cases, Gumbs, Tooth, Mair, Nail and Shaving Brushes, Bromes Figures, Bisque Figures, Clocks, Forceight Vases, &c., &c., for sais by Havilland, Importer, No. 23 John st.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS-SPECIAL NOTICE. -- In HOLIDAY FRESENTS—SPECIAL SOURCE—In consequence of the record destruction by fire of the rear of the great fancy Store of H. S. Roeers, No. 449 Breadway, the entire stock (shore \$70,00 worth) of rich and valuable of the control of the sat valuable of the store of the great store of the store of the forest of the store of the first store of the store of th

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—
PURE WISES and SPIRITS,
at wholesale prices, in quantities to ARTHUR KENDALL, Wine Merchant, No. 7 Williamest, New York.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS .- HORACE WATERS, No HOLDAY FRESENTS.—HORACE WATERS, AO.

33 Broadway, has the largest and most elegant assortment of
Plaxos and Melodross, manufactured by the most colebrated
makers in the Union. In his Watercount can be found Playon
from ten different manufacturies, and Melodeous from five do.,
afforcing an opportunity for the selection of Holiday Fresents
for a friend, not to be had elsewhere in the United States, and
at prices so extremely low as to come within the means of all.
P. S.—Between this and New Year's Day, Mr. W. will sell
Pinnes, Melodeous, Music and Musical Instruments of all kinds
at a greater discount than he has over made before.

OVERCOATS, TALMAS, BUSINESS COATS, DRESS AND PROCE COATS, &c — We are closing out our elegant stock of the above garments, at greatly reduced prices.

D. DEVLIN & Co.,
Nos. 258, 259, 260 Broadway, cor. Warren st.

ROBES DE CHAMBRE, EMBROIDERED SMOKING Jackets, Gestlemen's Shawles, &c.—A very select stock of the above, for Holiday presents, at very reduced prices. Nos. 256, 259, 260 Broadway, cer. Warren st.

BOYS' CLOTHING.—Our large stock of BOYS' WINTER CLOTHING, and the prices at which we are closing them out, deserve the early attention of families supplying their Boys during the Holidays.

Nos. 250, 259, 259 Broadway, cor. Warrer. st.

TAKING STOCK .- From now till the 1st Janu ary, we will offer our large and elegant Stock of Wints CLOTHING at very low figures, to close the senson. D. Davins & Co., Nos 258, 250, 260 Broadway, cor. Warren at.

CHILDREN'S PATENT LEATHER BOOTS for HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—A large assortment to fit children, from two years old. Also, besufful Slippers for centenen and laddes. Presens wanting Fancy Slippers made to order, before New-Year's, are requested to leave their orders immediately, to prevent disappointment.

John L. Watkins, No. 114 Fulton et.

LYON'S KATHAIRON .- The incontested, the incontestible superiority of this article for restoring and beauti-fring the human hair, has won for it a celebrity unprocedented in the history of the Materia Medica. Soid by all declere everywhere for 25 cts. a bottle. LVox. No. 161 Broadway, up stairs.

Rich JEWELRY, for holiday presents, may be found at lower rates at the store of Wilmarth & Benton, No. 343 Broadway, than at any other establishment in this city. We know it is hard times, and sell accordingly. Please call and examine our stock. Remember, No. 343 Broadway, Sign of the Golden Eagle.

SPLENDID HOLIDAY PRESENTS-PIANO FORTES The subscribers would call attention of those desiring to make a truly splendid as well as useful holiday present to their alternation.

caystal falace frire flavo forths, of Fapier bluche and carred Rosewood, which they now offer for ane, together with a splentid assormant of their instruments of every style of case, from 64 to 75 octave, of a quality which cannot be supposed, which will be fully warranted, and sold at prices that cannot fall to suit. Also, Malaceous of very superior quality. Geoverners & Turslow, No. 500 Broadway, adjoining St. Nicholes Motel.

WINTER CLOTHING .- The undersigned will dipose of the balance of his stock of first quality Ready-Made CLOTHING, comprising Overcosts, Susiness Coats, Pantalona, Vests, &c., at wholessle prices, with a view of recintering the new premises at the old stand, No. 231 Broadway, on the 1st of Februsary next, with an entire new stock.

Wh. 7. Jennings Nos. 7 and 9 Barelay-st.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS, —A great sacrifice of rich Silks, Clorks, Satus, Silk Velvers, Meskos, Paramat-tas, Plaide, Ladies Cloths, Cashmeres, Black Silks, &c., is con-stantly going on at G. M. Bonkars, No. 22 Grandet, corner of Orchard. Ladies purchasing for the fieldays should call

HOLIDAY GIFTS.-Useful and ornamental articles, suitable for Presents for the ladice, gents, &c., can be found at White: — such as fashionable Furs at low prices.

Also, White: S Holiday Har—a style which Mr. W. has issue sapressly for the sesson.

White, No. 212 Broadway. Expressly for the esseon. WHITE, NO. 212 Broadway.

PRIZES.— Eight PIANO-FORTES and twelve GOLD

WATCHES, worth \$4.500, offered to the Literati and Musicians, for Competition is Music, FORTRY, CONUNCEMS, &c. Office for the reception of the various compositions No. 333 Broadway, New York.

PECK, FRILOWS & CO.

the for the reception of the various compositions No. 333 Broadway, New York.

R. B. R.—No. 13.

RADWAY'S REGULATORS—A PLEASANT PURGATIVE.—In six hours, a does of RADWAY'S REGULATORS will
make a well man or woman of the sick. On the first symptoms of pain or sickness, or if the bowle are irregular and you
suffer from Cestiveres, or your bead aches, and you feel a fallness in the head, throbbing pains, or reads of blood—orif you
have a billieus attack, and symptoms of fever appear, axin hot,
dry, parched—take from one to three REGULATORS, and if you
are not already confined to your room, in six hours you will be
free from all bad feelings. If you are confined to a sick bed,
take two every three hours, until you have taken six of the
REGULATORS, and you may rely on a speedy recovery.

In all cases of Scrofals, Syphilis, King's Evil, Dyspopsia,
Brouchitis, Lang Complaints, RADWAY'S REMOVATING RESOLVENT acts with the same speed and efficacy as the Ready Rehefdoes in cacte maladies. In six to twenty-four hours the
patient will feel its curative efficacy. R. R. RELIEF was the
first, and is the only, remedy ever descovered that will stop the
most tormenting pains in a few minutes. Let those afflicted
rive its trial.

N. B.—R. R. Remedies are sold by Dragjests everywhere.
RADWAY & CO., Froprietors of RADWAY'S REMOVERS.

COSTAR'S RAT, COCKROACH, &c., EXTERMI-

COSTAR'S RAT, COCKROACH, &c., EXTERMI-NATOR DEPOT has removed to No. 386 BROADWAY, having been burnt clean out by the fire at his old stand, No. 448 Broadway. A new Happy Family in a few days.

WAR SUGGESTIONS.—Among the suggestions now going the round of the British Press, and finding favor with public opinion, are the following: A band of "navvies" with spade and pickax, barrow and boring tools, to throw up intrenchments, and relieve the troops from that laborious duty, and to lay down a line of rails from Balaklava to the camp, for easy transportation and communication with the ships Colt's revolvers for the rank and file as well as for the officers, and a general supply of cannon-spike and hammers, especially for the cavalry, so that when they carry the enemy's guns, if only for a moment, they can render them unserviceable for the day. The subject of winter clothing is much canvassed. Pea jackets are dealared to be no meet protection against the cutting blasts of the Crimea; heep-skin coats with the skin outside, such as the n peasant wears, buck-skin mittens, fur boots and caps, are recommended by those who have had experience of the severises of a Russian or Canadian rinter. It is said that the proposed wooden buts above the ground will not answer without stoves, and that the warmer plan would be to live in holes under ground, with the roof slightly above ground, in the same way as the Russians did last winter in the Danubian Principalities.

FROM TURES ISLAND .- Capt. Buck, of the schooner entine Doane, from Turks Island, arrived yesterday, 25th, informs us that there was no sait to be had at any of the Islands. The quantity on hand at Turks Island was about 6,000 bushels, which had been previously engaged, and for which 30 cents per bushel was asked. The V. D. came home in ballast.

A GOOD STORY.—A young man named Aaron Van-thill bought a fine fat goose at Washington Market on Sat-day, for his Christmas dinner, but happening to stop, on his sy home, at a disreputable house in Dance et, Marthe Irwin, e of the immates, taking a finery to the squalker, cabbaged it is made off, but was subsequently cabbaged herself, and ac-mandated with quarters in the Tombs.

# New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1854.

Christmas was very generally observed in this City and neighborhood, yesterday, wherefore we are without our usual reports of business transactions. But little of interest reached us by mail or telegraph; it would seem that not only business but even news was suspended in consequence

By the steamer George Law, we have received California news to Dec. 1. She brings nearly a million and a half in Gold. The intelligence by this arrival is not important.

THE NEW ALLIANCE. France and England are at war with Russia as Allies and defenders of Turkey, menaced and assailed by the overwhelming forces of the Czar. After watching the varying fortunes of the fray for nearly a year. Austria declares in favor of the Western Powers and enters into their alliance. Yet it seems significant that she enters into engagements with France and England only-not including Turkey, the only power seriously menaced by the Autocrat, which was the first to declare war, and in whose behalf the struggle was undertaken. A strong Austrian corps now occupy in force the trans-Danubian Provinces of Turkey which were clutched by Russia at the outset as her "material guarantee" for the satisfaction of her claims: more Austrians will undoubtedly be poured into those Provinces; yet Turkey's existence seems hardly to be recognized by the new Alliance, though it virtually pleages itself to effect a most important and vital change in her constitution, by securing protection against all persecution or ill-treatment to her Christian subjects. Had Turkey been a party to this engagement, the Autocrat's main pretext for prooking hostilities would have been destroyed. Does not the course actually taken amount to a virtual ignoring of her substantial political ex-They blamed the Czsr for speaking privately of Turkey as "a sick man on our hands -a very sick man." Do not the Allies say by actions quite as much as the Czar did by words

Again : The Czar demanded, as the head of the Greek Church, to be regarded as Protector of the Orthodox Greek Christians residing in Turkey. This was rejected by the Sultan, with the tacit if not positive approval of France and England, as smounting to a claim of coordinate sovereignty with the Sultan, and as affording pretexts for perpetual interference in the internal concerns of Turkey. We think the objection well taken. Well: the Vienna Treaty, it is understood, unites all the Powers as exactors and protectors of the religious rights of the Christians in Turkey. If the Russian demand was objectionable, is not this at least equally so !

Nobody appears to imagine that Austria enters into this Alriance otherwise than under the pressure of necessity. She appears to side with France and England because Palmerston and Louis Napoleon say to her, "We can stand your 'neutrality no longer: you must side with us, or we raise Hungary, Italy, Poland, against you." It is probable also that a heavy subsidy from the British Exchequer is a part of the consideration for this engagement. Austria obtains this money, (which she sorely needs, ) a guaranty of the maintenance of her ill-gotten and worse-kept possessions, and present immunity from the Revolutionary tempest lowering darkly on her horizon. In return she engages to do-what? To make war on Russia next Spring, in case the Czar does not meantime accede to reasonable terms of peace. Well: suppose a coquetry of negotiation should be carried on at Vienna for two or three months, and then Austria should decide that the Czar's propositions are reasonable, and that but for the ob stinacy and extreme pretensions of the Allies, peace might be made; what then? There will be loud tack of Austrian perfidy, of course; but there is nothing very novel in that. We suspect Count Buol would survive it.

On the whole, we advise Louis Napoleon and Palmerston to make their hay while the sun shines. They, doubtless, want money-or, at any rate, will want it before long. Let them take advantage of the momentary fool's paradise | would be the result, if really popular and their new achievement has created, and push useful science, social morality, humanitarian through their loans with all dispatch. There is no time like the present time.

Finally, let our own people keep clear of this quarrel, in feeling as well as in fact. It is a war of the Past, not of the Present-a war of dynasties, of races; not a war for the Rights of Man; a war for the Balance of Power, not for the upraising of the down-trodden Millions. It is a capital quarrel to let alone.

## THE ATTITUDE OF PRUSSIA.

An attentive perusal of the speech of the King of Prussia, at the opening of his Legislative Chambers, will justify the surmise that he is nearly decided to take a course wholly opposite to that followed by Austria.

The paragraph in the speech saying that " Prussia will be in position to defend at any mo-" ment her interests and her place among the nations " of Europe, if the threatening issue of political ' erents should compel her," points to eventualitics which can not come from Russia. The King of Prussia declares emphatically in several of his diplomatic communications that he has decided to maintain a strict neutrality. The Czar agrees to it. England and France, and may be Austria menace and will compel Prussis to declare for or against them, protesting they can no further respect her neutrality, allow her to be the broker of the Russian exporting trade, and make immense gains where others are positive losers. These powers, therefore, not allowing Prussia to make her own choice, to follow her own interests, to put on the protocols of Vienna such a construction as she chooses, and to maintain a position which she believes the most beneficial to herthese Powers menace her interests and her place among the nations of Europe; and against them seems to be exclusively directed the rather warlike part of the Reyal Speech.

## THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

The National Era complains, and justly, too, that the proceedings of the Board of Trustees and Directors of the Smithsonian Institute are kept secret; that reporters are not admitted to their meetings; and that the public are kept in ignorance of the degree of activity, as well as of the purposes and views of the respective members of that body. The Ere speaks somswhat exclusively in the interest of the inhabitants of Washington-regarding the Institution as a local one. But the question is one of a

ing there concerns the honor and interest of the

Almost every citizen and inhabitant of this country is already acquainted with the history of the founder of this Institution. We know what was the paramount intention which led Mr. Smith! son to bestow this splend'd gifs on the people of the United States. It was a homage paid to the most absolute Universality, to true Democracy. and Republicanism. In this spirit alone, was the endowment made; in this spirit slone, was it his purpose to promote the cause of general callghtenment. In his mind, the knowledge to be diffused was to go hand in hand, and be indissolubly blended with the unique social life of this country. It was to enlighten the masses, and act to gravify the few; to reach the people to know their duties, sa well as their rights; to unfold, more distinctly, within them, the true dignity of manhood, developed by freedom and self-government. He desired as far as possible, to bring to the door of the lowest and poorest all attainable facilities for genuine social cultivation, and mental growth. Smithson could not have intended merely to patronize the labors of certain select learned individuals, but rather to contribute toward forming an enlightened and high-toned nation. To this he gave his mite. It is evident that along with this paramount aim, and as a means of advancing it, the natural sciences, and all useful discoveries in them, were considered by the founder as deserving the highest consideration. But the true value of all scientific research is its assistance to the human mind in not merely comprehending, but in practically mastering nature and rendering its powers and elements subservient and useful. Thus considered and applied. Science elevates humanity, physically and morally; its influence is for the well-being of mankind and the general prosperity of the masses.

It was, therefore, the chief purpose of Mr. Smithson to render the Institute immediately useful to the people. He thought to confer a benefit on society by the very publicity which was to characterize all its operations; but, instead of this, we now find secresy, narrow-mindedness, and a shallow spirit of exclusiveness monopolizing the supremacy in all matters appertaining to the conduct of the Institution. And now, we ask those persons who direct its affairs in this hidden and peculiar manner, to instance, in the smallest degree, any result of their superior wisdom, by which the cause of general intelligence has been promoted or extended. Have they, in the most remote way, been instrumental in diffusing knowledge, upon a single useful subject, among the masses? Has any phase of society derived benefit or advantage from the existence, the labors or the resources of this Institution?

A considerable part of the means of the establishment have been devoted to a few trivial experiments-researches, rather than discoveries-in some physical branches of knowledge; and it is with justice that The National Era calls it a "physical establishment." But, had it been the design of Smithson to ass. only in the cultivation of the physical sciences, and those abstruse studies which are incomprehens ble to the generality of men, surely he would not have bequesthed this valuable legacy to the American people, but would rather have left the money to his own country, or some other European State. Such establishments are only adapted to the pecultarities of European society, where the pursuits of science are circumscribed, and restricted to the select few. But, in the mind of Smithson science was general, and the initiation in it of the democratic body of the people was a prominent object. This great conception, could only be realized here in America; to America, therefore, he bequeathed his fortune. But we have distorted his will, and misunderstood, or rather wilfully perverted, his intentions. Beautiful and coatly editions of minute and crudite disquisitions on paleontology and fossilology, which, from their intrinsic inutility could bardly have found any other publisher, charm the patrician eyes to whom they are forwarded by the Institute. They carn the applause of savants, bristling with decorations, and with various titles of official dignity. These results of Smithsonian labors are shelved in splendid libraries, and then covered with dust, to molder there. How very different philosophy, and the rights and duties mankind to society, had been made the subjects of their lucubrations, and the primary objects of the Institution. It that such publications would not have been welcome in royal closets; but, answering to the intentions of the founder, they would have made their way into the common schools of our States-those cradles and numeries of free, intelligent men. In this manner the masses would have been benefited, and the words "Diffusion "of Useful Knowledge" would have appeared to be something more than a specimen of phraseology. But nothing like this has been done. A meager cabinet of natural curiosities, and a most defective library, are the sole tangible results within the reach of the American people, and these only to be visited and wondered at on account of their intrinsic poverty, and the time and money which have been so unscrupulously wasted upon them.

Smithson having in his will, explicitly stated his intention, could not do otherwise than leave to the practical sense of the American people the manner of carrying out his generous wish. He left it to the judgment of the nation how to apply the bequest in the most profitable manner, with respect to the necessities of our social state-to the spirit of the age-and to the life of our republican institutions. But how strangely have his wishes been misrepresented! The affair fell under the management of respectabilities; and there it remains. The same spirit which presided over the formation of the Congressional Library, and filled it with illustrated editions of dirty romance writers, such as Pigault, Le Brun. and Paul de Kock, extends its uncongenial influence to the Smithsonian Institute, and holds under its protection the coterie presiding there.

Years ago, a decision of Congress assigned a considerable annual sum from the income of the Smithsonian Fund, to be devoted to the formstien of a library. But this provision has been eluded, if not violated; and it is saddening to see what is accomplished, as compared with what might have been realized. The two libraries, that of Congress and the Smithsonian, with the use of such large sums, and arranged so as to complete each other, might have become a scientific treasure to the country generally. The Congressional ought to have been formed with the view of aiding and guiding statesmen in their researches; and, for that reason, works on Hislarger scope; and the mismanagement prevail- tory, Geography, Statistics, Political Economy,

and kindred subjects, should have filled its shelves. Had the Smithsonian Library absorbed the various other sciences, the combination would have been of the most useful and harmonious character. As it stands now, we consider the manner in which the Smithsonian Institute is conducted, wholly disgraceful; it is a flagrant violation of a National trust, and of the confidence of the generous denor. If nothing better can be done a suggestion, already once broached in Congress, should be carried into effect: that is, to restore the fund to the heirs of Smithson, rather than thus openly to wrong his memory.

RAILROAD POLICY. We have always been favorable to Railroads. their builders and stockholders. We believe the latter are public benefactors, and we always rejoice to hear that their public spirit and enterprise are well rewarded. If we could this day lift all their stocks to par, and guarantee them dividends of four per ceat. every six months, we should do it with great pleasure.

And yet we are not convinced that the surest way to the financial prosperity they justly seek | call upon the heads of departments to send in their lies through the proposed advance of passenger fares. Let us consider this point:

To the figurers for an advance, all things are easy. A certain road received, we will say \$10,000 per mile, for carrying passengers and freight during 1854. It paid out \$5,500 per mile for running expenses, \$3,000 per mile for interest on loans, \$1,000 per mile for new dépôts, additional turn-outs, side-tracks, &c , and the odd \$500 per mile in reduction of its floating debt; leaving just nothing over to divide among its steckholders.

"Now," says a figurer, "the whole matter is plain. Our rates are too low. Increase our charges for Freight fifteen and for Passage twenty-five per cent., and we shall have twelve thousand dollars per mile, which will meet all these outgoes and leave eight per ceat. for our long-suffering stockholders."

No. it won't; and we'll show you why:

Say the average charge for passage is now two cents per mile; add twenty-five per cent. and you make it two and a half cents: surely nobody will object to that,

Yes, they will, and this is how: An old far ner lives ten miles from the railroad, and wishes to visit, with his family, a relative also living ten miles off the line, and sixty miles in the direction the road runs. He can take the family in his wagon and drive the distance easily in a day and a half; or he can run down to the nearest station. take the cars for sixty miles, and ride thence by stage or wagon to his destination. The difference between the fare at two and at two and a half cents per mile may determine whether it is advisable that he should go by railroad or by his own conveyance. Ten miles' distance from the road may or may not be the precise point at which this difference becomes operative; it is not material whether it be five, ten or fifteen. Suffice it that there manifest'y is a tract on each side of the road, and not a very narrow one, whence passengers would be attracted at two cents per mile who would be repelled at two and a half. And this is but one of many cases in which an increase of fare would operate to repel patronage.

The year now closing has been a disastrous one for business generally. The crops have been short, and this has diminished freights; the people are poor, and this tends to decrease travel. The Railroads will not have received so much by twenty per cent. during the last quarter of 1854 as they would have done had the harvest been bountiful and business prosperous. We think the Railroads will make a blunder if they permanently increase their charges because of this temporary depression. Let them cut off the dead-heads and thus swell their receipts; let them retrench all useless expenses and thus diminish needless outgoes; and let them confidently anticipate that their receipts at the old prices will be ten per cent. more in '55 and twenty per cent. more in "56 than they have been in '54. It is by this steady increase of their business and receipts, founded on a constant increase of Population and of Production on either side of their several tracks, that their fortunes are to be retrieved. We appeal confidently to time for proof that these views are correct.

## CITY BOOK-KEEPING.

The marner in which the financial accounts of the City are kept. is undoubtedly very clear to the comprehension of scientific men, and may be satisfactory to the officers immediately concerned; but we imagine that from the Controller's reports, plain as they are to the initiated, not one ta fifty of the citizens in general can make out satisfactorily the City's liabilities and means, If a railroad company were to borrow one sum to pay for grading another for iron, another for locomotives, another for cars, another to pay interest on the iron fund: and then set apart receipts from freight to pay the principal on one debt; receipts for carrying the mail to pay interest on another. applying the surplus to the reduction of the principal of another still; and make a sinking fund of the receipts from through travel, using the interest only to pay for labor, and borrowing from the anticipated revenue of the current year to make up deficencies-with such a disposition of accounts, the Railroad Company's books would very fairly represent the balance sheets of the City annually issued from the Controller's office. Instead of a general debt, merely specifying

the time the bonds expire, and the rate of interest, we have the Water Stock, the Croton Water Stock, the Water Loan, the Public Building Stock, the Public Building Stock No. 3, the Publie Building Stock No. 4, the Fire Indemnity Stock, the Public Education Stock, the Docks and Slips Stock, Revenue Bonds, Assessment Bends, and we don't know but others still. Then, in regard to payment, we have quit renta, water rents, real estate, bonds and mortgages, licenses to pawnbrokers and second-hand deal ers, wharf-rents, market fees and rents, the avails of the Fire Loan Stock, the Bellevue Alms-House, when sold, and other items applied to the redemption of the public debt; while all receipts for interest on bonds and mortgages, Mayoralty fees, fines and penalties, court fees collected for the Corporation, rum licenses, sales of property other than real estate, Croton water rents, and all other rents not specified are good enough only to pay interest on the debt, any deficiency therein to be made up by taxation. This whole City Debt business is cut off from the Tresury, and placed in the hands of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, though all the money necessarily passes through the Controller's Then come the Temporary Debt accounts, which

are greatly confused by a system of borrowing every year in January the money to be raised by tax in October, giving due-bills in the shape of Revenue Bonds, bearing interest, though the interest is said to be more than made up by the taxation upon taxes not paid within a specified time. Again, large sums of money are borrowed on what are called assessment bonds to pay for street opening, sewers, &c., which money ultimately comes back to the Treasury from the assessments made upon the property benefited. Other accounts are opened for borrowing from the Treasury to pay the interest on these assessment debts, thus making confusion worse confounded. Now we have to calculate the amount of these various debts, the interest, the receipts from fixed and variable sources, the probable amount of street work, and the probable money coming in from assessments collected, add, subtract, and arrive at - what ! Why, the very starting point in a simple account; viz.: How much do we now owe; what means have we to pay it: how much do we need for the year, and where is it to be obtained ! At this point we must estimates of receipts and expenditures, and having deducted the first from the last, we begin to get a glimmering of the real amount to be assessed at large upon the City, as the tax for the year. Having taken in deficiences from the previous year, and allowed for deficiencies in the receipts of the sinking fund for the payment of interest on a dozen permanent debts, we cipher out the balance and send it to the Tax Commissioners, who levy it in three separate assessments called County, Lamp and Street," "County and Lamp," and "County" Districts.

By the terms of the Charter, the Controller is required to furnish, for general information of the citizens, at least two months before election each year, a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the year, chiefly to show how much money is wanted by tax. The condition in which this statement is put forth we have endeavored to explain. By the footings of the condensed tables, say last year, the expenditures of the Treasury appeared be over \$10,000,000 for that year alone, while the other side of the account is headed "Appro-"priations." making no distinction between money borrowed and that raised by tax. This is exclusive of the Sinking Fund Account, which deals only with permanent debt and the interest thereon. True, one may, if tolerably good at figures, work out from the text of the report just how much money the people are to raise within the twelve-month, and what for; but not one in a hundred will take the trouble, if he has the capacity to do so.

Now, why not consolidate all these intricate tables into one plain statement, since the Finance Department must practically do so, in order to balance sny one account? The fact is simple enough: The City owes now so much; the year's interest, and principal due, if any, will call for a certain sum; one executive department for so much, another so much, &c., making in the aggregate say twenty millions. Deduct debt not coming due this year, and receipts from all sources except taxation, and the balance required is what the people are called upon to raise under general assessment. The details may show as much of the science of book-keeping as fancy may dictate; but let us have, at least, a simple, intelligible balance-sheet, that the people can see through without difficelty and without mistake.

The London Times, in a leader (Nov. 25,) makes use of the following language:

"As citizens of England, as allies of France, we feel sill more ashamed than dismayed at the position our united forces occupy."

The phrase proudly declaimed on such occa-

sions used to be "British subjects." Why does The Times now drop it for the republican term citizen ?" Perhaps as it becomes less loyal it seeks to become more national in its rhetoric. Certainly, as respects the present war, for which the nation was the first to declare and the dynasty the last, it would be more accurate to call the Queen the subject of the British Nation than the British Nation the subjects of the Queen.

## CHRISTMAS.

The outward observance of Christmas Day was far more general this year than ever before, in this City

The day was rather disagreeable, being foggy in the morning, and particularly wet and muddy under foot all day. Therefore there were not haif so many citizens abroad as usual, though a considerable pro portion ventured out to the churches where services ere held, and to the various places where charity

dispensed her bounty.

Within doors there was an abundance of true happisces. Santa Claus, despite the hard times, had kindly remembered his little friends, and thousands of delighted parents drank their fill of the purest happiness from the sparkling eyes and meet happy with a ter of those who know enough to be happy with a ter of those who know enough to be happy with a that the innocent diversions of the good Santa Claumay continue to flourish and increase as long as there are innocest children to gratify, and fond parents and friends to share their joys.

Probably half the stores, shops and places of business in the City were not opened at all yesterday; before 9 A.M. A few retailers of fancy goods and toys, some of the dining-saloons, and all of the rumholes were open all day; but the walking was so bad that either there was less drunkenness than usual, or else it was kept within doors.

As usual, there were a number of Military parades, but even here there was a falling off-not half as many companies being out as last season.

In the evening there was a great rush to the were crowded to their fullest capacity by audiences composed in great part of those who seldom treat themselves to such entertainment at any other season

Without designing to make a regular report of the day's doings, we append such facts as happened to fall under the notice of our reporters in their journeyings to and fro through the town

CHRISTMAS AMONG THE POOR. The inmates of the two missions at the Five Points

had a merry Christmas yesterday. The chapel at the Old Brewery Mission-house was fall of children and visitors through the afternoon, some of whom were made happy by giving and others by receiving Christmas gifts. Mr. Larken, the worthy pastor, seemed particularly happy. Mr. M'Lean, too, was in his element. The ledies who maintain this mission cause a great des', of happiness upon these holiday At the Five Points House of Industry, Mr. Pease

had his hands full all this morning in getting ready, and all the afternoon in attending to a constant crowd of visitors, the first of whom retired to give place to others; otherwise the rooms could not have held a quarter who came in through the afternoon and even-

There were about 300 children present who atten

school there Sunday or week days, all of whom were fed not only with substantial food, but the luxuries of to them a real merry Christmas.

But the most substantial part of the festival was about \$400 contributed, in small sums, by the visitors, to furnish substantial food to the poor in future. A contribution of 600 leaves of bread was received om the servant girls in the house of Richard R Haight. This prevented many a poor woman and children, who came to the door for food, from going supperless to bed, or rather to sleep upon the floor, urabed. We could not help thinking as we tasted one of these fine white loaves, that it possessed a peculiar sweetness. It had the sweetness of genae charity.

A monster cake, sent by Mrs. Jones, of No. 133 Greene-st , was divided among the poor sewing wamen of the house. Some one inquired of Mr. Pease, if he intended to make a public holiday of New-Year's He said that be should like to set a table the whole length of the chapel, and cover it with plain, substantial food, and invite all the working poor of the reighborhood to come and get one good hearty meal, but he was almost afraid to make the attempt, because the Institution had run so far behind-so much in debt-that he had some scruples about such a pleasant New Year's offering to the poor.

Among others present who encouraged him to set such a table, was Mr. Treadwell, of the St. Nicholas Hotel, who proffered to furnish food enough to fill two hundred mouths of such as will get a good med by coming to such a table only, perhaps in all this

Sor ething having been said about the want of room for work-shops in the present buildings, a lady aid she would give \$100 toward a building fund, either to purchase the present site of the house, or other property on the Five Points, to built a more commodious House of Industry, where employment could be given to all the destitute who would rather work and live, than beg and steal, and suffer the con-

After this lead, ten others followed, with the same proposition, to give a hundred dollars each.

Both at this, and all the other charitable Institutions that we heard from, the present Christmas was one of unusual cause of joyfulness; for the spirit manifested by the people seems to indicate that they will not see the worthy poor suffer for food while they are without work.

From the country, too, we have received several gratifying tokens of a willingness to contribute to our aid in this trying time.

The following note speaks the object of the donor better language than we can employ.

It comes without name of person or place; but,

from the post-mark, we are sure that Norwich, Conn.,

from the post-mark, we are sure that Norwich, Conta, contains one Christian wildow. It reads:

In "casting my bread upon the waters," I would wish some of its crumse to fail upon one or more of those "distressing "cases," (mentioned in my Daily Tribuy's of the 2d lint J "that will never reach the public eye," and I therefore, direct the enclosed widow's mite, with the prayer that the off-sing-small and humble—may be accepted and blessed to some deserving sufferer, from ALADY IN THE COUNTRY.

Dec. 22, 1824

That "widow's mite" is fifteen dollars!

Another note, from Collinsville, Conn. Another note, from Collinsville, Conn.:
Inclosed please fluit \$5 for that widow with five children,
unless you know of some one more destitute.

Thank you most heartily, C. B., whoever you be.
That widow ate meat for her Christmas dinner, for

the first time in many months, and she is not the only one that gave thanks to God for your gift. We do know of others equally destitute. In another letter, signed A., we do not know from

where, we find "\$2 for the poor widow," and "\$3 for the Children's Aid Society." In another letter from a lady, "\$1 for your general

relief fund." A case of misery has been relieved with that.

A letter, dated Taunton, Mass., from "a friend,"

sys; We have not a few such with us; but, having a little over, I and you \$10 to go toward said barrel of flour to said widow. We are glad to find not only that our friend has a little over, but an overflowing heart.

Another equally happy friend says: "Notes all "paid, and \$5 for a poor family." Another says: "Here is \$10 for the suffering poor of New-York—"use it right." We will try to do so. A lady to whom we sent half of it and a turkey for her Christmas dinner, with our good wishes and sympathes, burst into tears and said: "Oh, I had bitterly 'despaired of anything but a dry crust of bread to-day; and, as I looked upon my sick husband, out of work, I did not feel a bit like saying Morry Christmas; but you have lifted a load of cold ice from my heart. Who shall I thank?" Our mes-"from my heart. Who shall I thank?" Our messenger answered: "Thank God." "I will, I will."
We have one more note from the country. Here

BERMINGHAM. (Conn.) Saturday, Dec. 23, 1854.
Inclosed is \$15, to be a liked in feeding the hungry and lething the naked GEO. W. SHELTON.
There. We are not only enjoying a merry Christmar-we are downright jolly. At New-Year's, if these things continue, we shall be immessarably

THE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

There are few public Institutions of charity in interest as those which we witnessed at the Home of the Friendless, in East Thirtieth at. Between 12 and 1 P. M. yesterday, one hundred children partock of an excellent dinner at the Home, while their mothers, through an invitation from the ladies of the Society, dined at the rooms of the School, in Thirty fourth st. The subsequent exercises were of an extremely interesting character. There was a variety of singing and speaking by the children; and, on the presentation of one hundred hoods and talmas by the lady-patrons, a little girl named Maggie Burns

by the lady-patrons, a little girl named Maggie Burns returned thanks in the following pretty lines:

Patrons dear, and Teachers kind,
In our childish hearts enshrined,
To your lind with hearts enshrined,
To your lind and tender care
Thanks we give for what we know,
More than just a year ago,
When our school was in the street,
And we had not food to est,
Clothing scant, and feet all bare,
And for us none seemed to care.
Now, we read, and write, and sew—
You have taught us what we know,
May our Heavenly Friend, shore
Bless you ever with his love!

After this, the children adjourned to another spartment, where their bonefactors had prepared two

nent, where their bonefactors had prepared two Christmas trees, loaded with presents, from which they selected whatever toy happened to please their childish fancies. Never did the caremonies of the Christmas Tree seem more appropriate than upon this occasion: those happy children, with the light of contentment and intelligence beaming from their features
-the numerous ladies, with their families, all eager o promote the happiness of their little protegés-all ese combined to form a picture, on that cheerful Christmas Day, the influence of which will continue o be beneficial in the recollection of every person who was present.

The evening exercises, by the inmates of the Home. ere similar in their character to those of the afternoon CHRISTIAN HOME FOR SERVANTS.

Yesterday afternoon an excellent dinner was far-nished at the Christian Home, to about forty female servants, who are at present out of employment.

The dinner was given by the supporters of the institution, and was greatly enjoyed by those who partook of it. After the dinner, an address was delivered to the Company by the Founder of the Institution.

The speaker took her text from Matthew. Is chapter, 21st verse: "And she shall bring "forth a Son, and thou shalt call his name Joss, "for he shall save his people from their sins."
The main point in the discourse was the object of Christ's mission to earth, showing that he came to the utter destruction of sin. Each and every ess, she said, was born for some particular object, and she said, was born for some particular object, as unless they followed in the ways of Christ according to his teachings, that object could not be access-plished, and they would be doomed to eternal per-ishment. The address was very interesting, and was listened to with deep attention. At the conclusion of